

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), the sponsor of H.R. 946.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my bill, H.R. 946, the Graton Rancheria Restoration Act. I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), and their staffs for the work that they have put into bringing this bill to the floor today. I appreciate that the full Committee on Resources unanimously voted this bill out of committee on May 16, and I thank them all for the earlier hearing where the Bureau of Indian Affairs testified in support of the bill. Today I am appreciative that H.R. 946 is on this floor.

The bill before us today seeks to correct a decades-old wrong by restoring Federal recognition for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. This rancheria is composed primarily of the California Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo Indian tribes in my congressional district. My district is located north of San Francisco across the Golden Gate Bridge, and it consists of Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Joe Saulque, who chaired the advisory council on California Indians in the 1980s, stated that luck often determined whether a tribe got recognized. I am glad that today the House is taking luck out of the equation and voting on restoring the tribe's status, because it is the right thing to do.

The tribes of the Graton Rancheria are a rich part of the San Francisco Bay area's cultural heritage. The earliest historical account of the Coast Miwok peoples, whose traditional homelands include the California communities of Bodega, Tomales, Marshall, and Sebastopol, located along the west coast of my district, dates back to 1579. Today, there are almost 400 members of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

In 1966, the United States Government terminated the tribe's status along with numerous other tribes. This was under the California Rancheria Act of 1958. Almost 2 decades later, the advisory council on California Indian policy was established to study the report and to come up with special circumstances facing California tribes whose status had been terminated. The council's final report, which was submitted to Congress in September 1997, specifically recommended the immediate restoration of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

Following the report's recommendation, the tribes promptly decided on a course of action for their restoration. Since then, I have been working with them on the bill that is before us

today. This consensus bill restores Federal rights and privileges to the tribes and its members and makes them eligible for benefits, such as Native American health, education, and housing services that are available to federally recognized tribes.

Madam Speaker, it has been a long journey for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. On behalf of their hard work and the support they have received from the local community, I ask that the House restore the recognition they deserve.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his efforts in support of this bill and just to say briefly that it is important that we move swiftly to restore the rights wrongfully taken from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria in 1958. I urge my colleagues to vote aye on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 946.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 522) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of responsible fatherhood.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 522

Whereas studies reveal that even in high-crime, inner-city neighborhoods, well over 90 percent of children from safe, stable, two-parent homes do not become delinquents;

Whereas in 1998, 1.2 million babies, or 33 percent of all newborns, were born out of wedlock;

Whereas children with fathers at home tend to do better in school, are less prone to depression, and have more successful relationships;

Whereas premature infants whose fathers spend ample time playing with them have better cognitive outcomes and children who have higher-than-average self-esteem and lower-than-average depression report having a close relationship with their father;

Whereas both boys and girls demonstrate a greater ability to take initiative and evidence self-control when they are reared with fathers who are actively involved in their upbringing;

Whereas although mothers often work tremendously hard to rear their children in a

nurturing environment, a mother can benefit from the positive support of a father for her children;

Whereas it is recognized that to promote responsible fatherhood is in no way meant to denigrate the standing or parenting of single mothers, but rather to increase the chances that children will have two caring parents to help them grow up healthy and secure;

Whereas a broad array of America's leading family and child development experts agree that it is in the best interests of children and the nation as a whole to encourage more two-parent, father involved families;

Whereas, according to a 1996 Gallup Poll, 79.1 percent of Americans believe the most significant family or social problem facing America is the physical absence of the father from the home and the resulting lack of involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, in 1996, 16,993,000 children in the United States (one-fourth of all children in the United States) lived in families in which a father was absent;

Whereas, according to a 1996 Gallup Poll, 90.9 percent of Americans believe "it is important for children to live in a home with both their mother and their father";

Whereas it is estimated that half of all United States children born today will spend at least half their childhood in a family in which a father figure is absent;

Whereas the United States is now the world's leader in fatherless families, according to the United States Bureau of the Census;

Whereas estimates of the likelihood that marriages will end in divorce range from 40 percent to 50 percent, and approximately 3 out of every 5 divorcing couples have at least one child;

Whereas almost half of all 11- through 16-year-old children who live in mother-headed homes have not seen their father in the last 12 months;

Whereas the likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles if he is reared without a father and triples if he lives in a neighborhood with a high concentration of single-parent families;

Whereas a study of juveniles in state reform institutions found that 70 percent grew up in single or no parent situations;

Whereas children of single-parents are less likely to complete high school and more likely to have low earnings and low employment stability as adults than children reared in two-parent families;

Whereas a 1990 Los Angeles Times poll found that 57 percent of all fathers and 55 percent of all mothers feel guilty about not spending enough time with their children;

Whereas almost 20 percent of 6th through 12th graders report that they have not had a good conversation lasting for at least 10 minutes with at least one of their parents in more than a month;

Whereas, according to a Gallup poll, over 50 percent of all adults agreed that fathers today spend less time with their children than their fathers spent with them;

Whereas President Clinton has stated that "the single biggest social problem in our society may be the growing absence of fathers from their children's homes because it contributes to so many other social problems" and that "the real source of the [welfare] problem is the inordinate number of out of wedlock births in this country";

Whereas the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion and the Senate Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion were both formed in 1997, and the Governors Fatherhood Task Force was formed in February 1998, and the Mayors Task Force was formed in June 1999;

Whereas a growing number of community-based organizations are implementing outreach support and skills building programs for fathers;

Whereas a disproportionate amount of Federal dollars are spent on crime, a social symptom, as compared to addressing the principal underlying cause of crime: an increasing absence of fathers from the home;

Whereas the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion is exploring the social changes that are required to ensure that every child is reared with a father who is committed to being actively involved in the rearing and development of his children;

Whereas the National Fatherhood Initiative holds an annual National Summit on Fatherhood in Washington, D.C., with the purpose of mobilizing a response to father absence in several of the most powerful sectors of society, including public policy, public and private social services, education, religion, entertainment, the media, and the civic community; and

Whereas the promotion of fatherhood is a bipartisan issue: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the creation of a better America depends in large part on the active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children;

(2) urges each father in America to accept his full share of responsibility for the lives of his children, to be actively involved in rearing his children, and to encourage the academic, moral, and spiritual development of his children;

(3) urges governments and institutions at every level to remove barriers to father involvement and enact public policies that encourage and support the efforts of fathers who want to become more engaged in the lives of their children;

(4) encourages each father to devote time, energy, and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but more importantly a secure, nurturing, family environment; and

(5) expresses its support for the National Fatherhood Initiative, and its work to inspire and equip fathers to be positively involved in the raising and development of their children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 522.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for his leadership on this issue. It is no secret that children who have fathers in the home tend to do better in school, have more success in relationships, and get into less trouble. I would like also to publicly thank for making our country more aware of this Dr. Wade Horn of the National Fa-

therhood Institute as well as Dr. David Blankenhorn for their years of leadership on this issue.

Although mothers often work tremendously hard to rear their children in a nurturing environment, a mother can benefit from the positive support of the father of her children. A broad array of America's leading family and child development experts agree that it is in the best interests of children and the Nation as a whole to encourage more two-parent, father-involved families.

According to a 1996 Gallup Poll, 79.1 percent of Americans believed that the most significant family or social problem facing America is the physical absence of the father in the home and the resulting lack of involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children. According to the Bureau of the Census in 1996, 16,993,000 children in the United States, one-fourth of all the children in the United States, lived in families in which a father was absent.

The United States is now the world's leader in fatherless families according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and the likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles if he is reared without a father and triples if he lives in a neighborhood with a high concentration of single-parent families.

According to a Gallup Poll, over 50 percent of all adults agreed that fathers today spend less time with their children than their fathers spent with them. It is not just a problem of fathers who are not ever there but fathers who nominally live in the home and do not spend time with their children.

President Clinton has stated that "the single biggest social problem in our society may be the growing absence of fathers from their children's homes because it contributes to so many other social problems." President Clinton continued, "The real source of the welfare problem is the inordinate number of out-of-wedlock births in this country."

A growing number of community-based organizations are implementing outreach support and skills-building programs for fathers. I have personally worked with many of these. We recognize that the creation of a better America depends in large part on the active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children.

As supporters of this resolution, we urge each father in America to accept his full share of responsibility for the lives of his children, to be actively involved in the rearing of his children, and to encourage the academic, moral and spiritual development of those children.

Some argue that nothing can be done, but Governor Frank Keating in Oklahoma has an excellent plan through his human services division leader, Jerry Regire, that illustrates

exactly what can be done at the State level and some at the Federal level.

Madam Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will include for the RECORD an article that appeared in yesterday's Washington Post by Barbara Dafoe Whitehead.

I would like to just quote at this time a few things from this excellent article. Barbara Dafoe Whitehead has been a leader in efforts to encourage father involvement for at least 15 years. When I first was Republican staff director at the Children Family Committee here in Congress, she worked with us as we tried to raise this issue as we saw the problem exploding in our country.

Her column starts:

A couple of months ago, amid the Elian Gonzalez controversy, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno issued a remarkable statement on the nature of fatherhood. The United States, she told a news conference, is a Nation, quote, "whose law and whose very moral foundation recognize that there is a bond, a special, wonderful, sacred bond between father and son."

She continued in her column:

Take a look at the Father's Day cards in any neighborhood drug store. There alongside the classic greetings for fathers and stepfathers are cards aimed at the alternative dads. For the last few years there have been cards for children to send to their fathers who don't live with them. They carry sentiments like this one: "I miss you more than ever, Daddy, now that it's Father's Day and even though I'm too far away to hug you with my arms, I just want you to know I'll be hugging you in my heart."

"This year at my CVS," Barbara Dafoe Whitehead continued,

There are two new sections of Father's Day cards. One is under a sign reading "Like a Father." The cards feature such messages as: "Just wanted to thank you for all the ways you've been a daddy." The second section, poignantly labeled "Anybody," contains greetings aimed at a generic good guy, including one Father's Day message for the Good Man who spreads happiness everywhere he goes. These cards suggest that Father's Day might be morphing into Positive Male Role Model Day. There's even a positive male role model card for Mom, a woman who's done all the things that a father usually does.

You don't find a parallel range in Mother's Day cards.

She concludes this excellent article by saying:

As marriage has faded, fatherhood has split along the seam between biology and sociology. But more than anything else,

She concludes:

This project of trying to cobble together one father from several kinds of daddies is contrary to what kids want and need. Anyone who raises children knows that they are natural social conservatives. They like order, except perhaps in their bedrooms, stability, constancy, permanence and the security of having fathers worry about them rather than having the reverse responsibility of worrying about their father. And as much as they may benefit from and enjoy their relationships with other male role models, they aren't likely to confuse coaches or mentors with the real dad. Retrograde as it may sound, most kids still want one father who fulfills multiple roles all the time rather than several fathers who fulfill a few of the

roles some of the time. But today too many kids have to content themselves with the kind of fatherhood that is as paper thin as a sentiment on a Father's Day greeting card.

[From the Washington Post, June 18, 2000]

CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR

(By Barbara Dafoe Whitehead)

A couple of months ago, amid the Elian Gonzalez controversy, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno issued a remarkable statement on the nature of fatherhood. The United States, she told a news conference, is a nation "whose law and whose very moral foundation recognize that there is a bond, a special, wonderful sacred bond between father and son. . . ."

A tender sentiment? Sure. A true description? Hardly. Reno's statement is remarkable chiefly because of how thoroughly at odds it is with fatherhood as we now know it.

America no longer has a "special" model of fatherhood—let alone one buttressed by legal, moral and religious opinion. In a well-intentioned effort to make up for vanishing fathers and disintegrating families, and to give support to the legions of foster fathers and stepfathers and mentors and Big Brothers and role models out there, American law and civil society have diluted the concept of fatherhood until it is almost unrecognizable. What began as a conscientious response to a crisis is hardening into something like the new status quo. We once saw sometime, part-time or once-upon-a-time fathers as inadequate substitutes for a full-fledged father; now we are selling ourselves on the idea that they are all kids really want or need.

Unfortunately, while fatherhood has changed, childhood has not. Children still need love, protection, security and, perhaps most of all, stability in their lives. Many of the new varieties of fatherhood don't give that to kids. They're too geographically remote, too emotionally distant, too legally fuzzy or circumscribed, or too fleeting to do so.

No one would dream of trying to convince children that their mother could be replaced by several different kinds of mothers, all playing different roles at different times in their lives. But that is exactly what we are communicating to the many children whose fathers are absent, distant or unknown.

Take a look at the Father's Day cards in any neighborhood drugstore. There, alongside the classic greetings for fathers and stepfathers, are cards aimed at the alternative dads. For the last few years there have been cards for children to send to fathers who don't live with them. They carry sentiments like this one: I miss you more than ever Daddy, now that it's Father's Day/ and even though I'm too far away to hug you with my arms, I just want you to know I'll be hugging you in my heart.

This year, at my local CVS, there are two new sections of Father's Day cards. One is under a sign reading "Like a Father." The cards feather such messages as: Just want to thank you for all the ways you've been a daddy. The second section, poignantly labeled "Anybody," contains greetings aimed at a generic good guy, including one Father's Day message for the Good Man who spreads happiness everywhere he goes. These cards suggest that Father's Day might be morphing into Positive Male Role Model Day. There's even a Positive Male Role Model card for Mom, A woman who's done all the things a father usually does.

You don't find a parallel range of Mother's Day greetings. Despite all the dramatic changes in women's lives over recent decades, little has occurred to shake what Janet Reno might call the moral and legal foundations of motherhood.

Consider how different the Elian case would have been if it had been the boy's father who had died, and his mother who wanted him back. Few would have questioned the mother's right to her shipwrecked son. To state what is painfully apparent to many children today, the bond to a mother is rock solid, but the bond to a father isn't.

Although both motherhood and fatherhood have both biological and sociological dimensions, these dimensions are virtually fused in motherhood, especially during a child's early years. To an infant, a mother's body is both life and food, nature and nurture. This isn't true of fatherhood. Biologically, a father is a one-minute parent. (Consider sperm donors.) Indeed, a man can become a father and be the last to know, sometimes years after the fact.

What's more, his biological contribution does not naturally dictate his sociological role. Sociological fatherhood is a lot like being a designated driver. Men can choose to take on the role and the effort it involves, either through the institution of marriage or through other kinds of ties to the mother and her family—and they can also choose not to. Because of this more tenuous connection, fatherhood is universally problematic. All societies face the challenge of connecting biological and sociological fatherhood in some fashion in order to make sure children are protected and supported over time.

Within living memory, of course, there was a single prevailing model of fatherhood in America. In it, a father was connected to his children by three ties. The first was blood, or its legal equivalent, adoption. The second was a shared household with the mother of his biological or adopted children. The third was marriage to the mother of these children. In this model, marriage was the most important of the three because it bound the other two ties together.

With the new dads, one or more—or even all—of these ties may be missing. For example, some men have a blood tie to their children but have never had a residential, marital, or any other meaningful tie to them. Others have a blood tie to their children but are divorced from the mother and no longer share the children's primary residence. Still others are married stepfathers who live with their wife and her biological children, voluntarily contribute to supporting and raising the children but have no blood tie to them. A fast-growing father group includes cohabiting men who live with the children but are not married to their mother; some have blood ties to the kids but others are "step-fathers" who are unrelated. And then there are the exes—ex-stepfathers, ex-foster dads or ex-boyfriends—who have no biological or legal tie to the children but once played some kind of father role in their lives. There are also the father figures—mentors, Big Brothers, coaches, clergy—who have no biological, legal, marital or residential tie to the children.

This tangle of father types creates all kinds of problems over nomenclature—what do you call the man who lived with your mother for a while and still comes by now and then to take you to ballgames?—which probably explains why "Anybody" is a growing niche in greeting card market.

As marriage has faded, fatherhood has split along the seam between biology and sociology. For example, the state defines the biological male parent as the father, and if paternity is established—either voluntarily by signing a birth certificate or involuntarily with a DNA test—he can be compelled to support his child. Other forms of paternal support and contact may be desirable, even encouraged, but nowhere does the state require a biological father to do anything more than enter into a financial arrangement.

This is an essential but breathtakingly minimalist model of fatherhood. It defines daddy down to a name on a birth certificate and a signature on a child-support check.

Other segments of the society, from families to churches to child advocates, define fatherhood functionally as the provision of constancy, caring and affection. Men other than a biological father—stepfathers, cohabiting fathers, unrelated cohabiting partners, neighbors and male relatives and friends—can play the role of the social father. So can male mentors who are not romantically involved with the child's mother but volunteer for the role of social father out of the goodness of their hearts.

In a best-case scenario, you can patch together both kinds of father and come close to meeting the requirements of full-fledged fatherhood. A biological father contributes money and perhaps some time; a sociological father or two picks up the slack. And, indeed, for some fortunate children, a combination of fathers adds up to more paternal time, money, and attention, not less.

But face it—in many more cases, these attempts to attach children to a variety of fathers aren't panning out. Fathers are now increasingly less likely to live with their biological children—35 percent of children today live apart from their biological fathers. And when they live apart, the father's involvement tends to diminish over time. As for the idea that we can replace biological fathers with father-surrogates, it's a comforting notion but recent experience suggests just how hard it is to pull off. Mentoring programs are particularly struggling to keep pace with growing caseloads of fatherless boys, a task requiring endless recruitment campaigns, background checks and training sessions and still falling short.

As it turns out, finding and keeping a father for every child who lacks one is a tall order. It takes money and lavish amounts of effort and invention—not to mention DNA tests, hospital birth registration programs, child support orders, visitation agreements, public service announcements and community fatherhood campaigns—to scrape together what are still more term-limited and fleeting forms of fatherhood.

As marriage has faded, fatherhood has split along the seam between biology and sociology.

But more than anything else, this project of trying to cobble together one father from several kinds of daddies is contrary to what kids want and need. Anyone who raises children knows that they are natural social conservatives. They like order (except perhaps in their bedrooms), stability, constancy, permanence and security of having fathers worry about them rather than having the reverse responsibility of worrying about their father. And as much as they may benefit from and enjoy their relationships with other male role models, they aren't likely to confuse coaches or mentors with a "real dad." Retrograde as it may sound, most kids still want one father who fulfills multiple roles all of the time rather than several fathers who fulfill a few roles some of the time. But today, too many kids have to content themselves with a kind of fatherhood that is as paper-thin as the sentiment on a Father's Day greeting card.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, one day after Father's Day, we stand before the House to encourage the participation

of fathers in the growth and development of their children. In this bipartisan effort, we note that the role of fathers in today's families has always been a prominent issue, but much more so in recent years, because too many of our children are growing up in homes without the benefit of a father.

The percentage of children growing up in a home without their father nearly tripled between 1960 and the early 1990s. Depending on estimates, today, somewhere between the cited figure of 16 million to 24 million American children are living without their biological fathers, and it is a shock to me that fully one-third of children today are born out of wedlock.

Most importantly, fatherless homes have a devastating impact on our children. It is both common sense, and research indicates, that without a father, children are four times as likely to be poor and twice as likely to drop out of school.

Fatherless children also have a higher risk of suicide, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse and delinquency. Clearly, the important role that fathers play in the development of their children cannot go unnoticed. Unfortunately, the challenges of fatherhood are not restricted to those who do not pay child support or so-called deadbeat dads.

Many fathers are caught between their duties at their work and the responsibilities to their families. The problems encountered by today's families are not limited to deadbeat dads. There are our families who are also hampered by deadbeat dads, who want to be there for their children, but for one reason or another, cannot.

As the father of a 3-year-old boy, Matthew, and a 9-month-old girl, Sarah Elizabeth, I realize the importance of spending time with my children and the pain it seems of always being short on that time. We spend a lot of time doing the Nation's business paddling in this rather large pond and yet sometimes it does feel to me that once we withdraw from this arena, that we will leave behind perhaps what one would leave behind if we pulled our hand out of a bucket of water, the Nation's business will continue, but I am absolutely confident that I will be the only father for my children, and I, like many others, struggle constantly with the needs of the Nation, the needs of our family, and the needs of providing for both.

Madam Speaker, I am encouraged by the work of the Congressional Fatherhood Promotion Task Force. Their efforts, throughout this resolution and other activities have begun to focus attention on the very important issues of complete families, fatherhood and parental participation. I believe this resolution sends a very strong signal to America, and it is a bipartisan resolution that all Members should support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to

my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), who has been a tireless leader since he came to Congress. Many Americans may not realize what a driving force he has been, not only on the issue of fatherhood, but in family values in general, and I am proud to consider him my friend and thank him again for his leadership on this resolution.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, as a co-chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion, I am very pleased to rise to speak in favor of this resolution.

First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) for his leadership in putting together this bipartisan effort to move the resolution. Statistics show that the American family is under siege as an institution.

Divorce rates are very high. Single parenthood is becoming more and more common in communities all across the Nation.

About one-third of all babies in this country born are born out of wedlock today. For some demographic groups, that rate is as high as 70 percent. Tonight, one in four American children that go to bed will go to bed in a home in which their father does not reside.

Times have certainly changed. In 1960, more than 80 percent of America's children lived with both of their parents in a home where both parents were married.

In the last census, that number dropped to 57.7 percent. When a family breaks apart in divorce, children most often live with their mother. The effects of growing up without a father are becoming clear.

According to the 1996 Gallup poll, 79.1 percent of Americans feel, and I quote, "the most significant family or social problem facing America is the physical absence of the father from the home."

I will never forget hearing the famous psychiatrist Dr. Armond Nicoli speak about fathers and the importance of spending time with their children. He had done a study of the fathers in the 128 corridor around Boston and, actually, calculated the amount of time in minutes that a father spent with his children today and compared that with fathers in Russia, and he made this point. He said some people say, well, I do not spend a lot of time with my children, but the time I spend is quality time. And then he said, you know, quality of time, like the quality of air and oxygen is very important, but the lack of it will kill you.

It is important that we spend time and spend a good amount of time with our children. What role does a father play in a home? Well, I am sure we all have our own stories and mine is not necessarily right, but some of the things I used to try to do is I spent 3 days a week in the State Capitol away from my children, and every night I would get them on the phone and talk to each one of them on the phone.

I would schedule breakfast every quarter, every third month with each

of them individually out in a restaurant with them, to listen to them, to talk to them. It was a wonderful time, and my kids are all grown, they still like to have breakfast with me.

I still send them each a letter every month. There are lots of different kinds of things that we can do. As families we can read to them every evening. There are so many times and things that we can do to express our love and spend our time with our children. Some men perhaps make better fathers than others, I suppose, but clearly, overall, children with two parents are greatly benefitted by it.

Thank God for our single parents and our single moms, but they need help, and studies show that even in a high crime or an inner-city neighborhood, well over 90 percent of children from safe, stable two parent homes do not become delinquents. Children with fathers at home tend to do better in school. They are less prone to depression, and they have more successful relationships.

The National Fatherhood Initiative founded by Dr. Wade Horn and Don Eberly from my district have helped to stem the tide of children being raised in homes without fathers.

Dr. Horn tells us that when the National Fatherhood Initiative was founded, the topic of fatherhood was still not considered an issue of national significance. The first and the most important task that NFI set out to accomplish was to stimulate a broad-based societywide social movement on behalf of involved, committed, responsible fatherhood.

The National Fatherhood Initiative is doing a very effective job, I think, and celebrities like Tom Selleck, James Earl Jones, Tiger Woods and his father Earl, General Colin Powell, Coach Joe Paterno have all lent their names and efforts to this cause.

I, along with several other Members in Congress, have come together to form this task force on fatherhood promotion trying to raise the profile of the issue by legislative means, and the NFI has been very successful.

Thousands of community-based grassroots programs designed to provide support, skills, encouragement to fathers have sprung up all over the country. Dozens of governors have held fatherhood conferences. Fatherlessness is getting the attention that it finally deserves.

According to the 1996 Gallup poll, 90.9 percent of parents believe it is important for children to live in a home with both father and mother.

This resolution recognizes that the creation of a better country depends in large part on the active involvement of both parents, fathers in helping, rearing and developing their children.

This resolution urges each father in America to accept his full share of responsibility for the lives of his children, to be actively involved in rearing his children, to encourage the academic moral, spiritual development of his children.

This resolution urges governments and institutions at every level to remove barriers to father involvement, to enact public policies that are father friendly, that encourage and support the efforts of fathers who want to become more engaged in the lives of their children.

It encourages each father to devote time, energy and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but also, more importantly, a secure, and nurturing, family environment.

Finally, this resolution expresses our support for the National Fatherhood Initiative, its work to inspire and equip fathers to be positively involved in raising and developing their children.

Madam Speaker, the family is the core of American society. As goes the American family, so goes America. The most important thing we can do is to make sure the American family is on a strong footing, and that means restoring American fatherhood.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am certainly appreciative of my colleagues and the other gentlemen who have come together to form the Congressional Fatherhood Task Force and appreciative of their work.

Madam Speaker, I would like to preface my remarks by saying that I am probably one of the few Members in Congress who knows how it is to grow up in a home with a single parent, and that does not in any way distract from the good work of my dear mother, obviously, I am now in Congress. I know that she smiles upon me from heaven, and it was indeed a struggle, and I would have wanted very much to have had a father in the home. So I guess my remarks are not only those that are prepared, but ones that speak from the heart, having lived and breathed a single parent household for all of my childhood life.

David Blankethorn published a book, Madam Speaker, and Members called *Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Social Problem*, criticizing the American culture and social institutions for undermining the father's role in the family and weakening the bond between men and their children.

This book along with many other publications provides, I believe, a foundation for the fatherhood movement that has surged over the last 5 years, and I am so happy that we are now about to do the business about giving some vital and needed attention to this whole question of fatherhood and what fatherhood is and what it is not in terms of our children across the country.

Society and our many systems would have us believe that financial support

from fathers is a primary need for many of our children that are currently being raised by single mothers. Unfortunately, financial support from fathers is not the only need of these children and in some instances may not be the critical need as we have been led to believe. Emotional support, love and stability is just as important for a child as financial support from a father.

Fathers are important to their children and should play an important role in their lives beyond the role of being the breadwinner. Poor children need love and support just like any other children. Fathers need to have a relationship with their children regardless of their financial status. Unfortunately, many poor fathers are viewed as deadbeat dads instead of dead broke dads. It is not that these fathers are unwillingly to financially support their children, it is that they are unable to do so due to many societal challenges, unemployment and underemployment.

I believe it is imperative to recognize the importance of the noncustodial father for their efforts instead of berating them for their inability to pay a fixed amount of child support each month. Many fathers are active in the lives of their children because they want to be very active in the lives of their children not because they have to be active in the lives of their children. Some men are silent, unfortunately, cohabitating with partners without the benefit of marriage, because the women sometimes see very limited income from welfare, and the presence of the father would jeopardize the household from getting the kind of benefits that are available for a mother and child.

Many women who are low income, underemployed would very much like for the child's father to be there and provide some of the support that they need.

We understand that a lot of the fathers, when they suffer from low literacy and poor employment history and, unfortunately, the wars in which America has been engaged has perpetuated a lot of substance abuse and a lot of fatherless children.

There is an array of issues, Madam Speaker, that we should be examining as a United States Congress to see if we can dismantle some of the obstacles that prevent fathers from being with their children and develop policy that encourages rather than discourage the fermenting of the family unit.

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It is time for us to support responsible fatherhood. I support the amendment enthusiastically and applaud the vision and the creativity of my colleagues in this august body for bringing it before this chamber. I would encourage support.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to observe that there are as many different forms

of families in America as there are families. I think that the vast majority of fathers do want to be present, but there are times when needs draw us apart.

My family history is that which just about every American family has shared at one time or another in their respective family histories. My dad came to America when I was 4 months old, and he was physically absent from my youth until I was about 7. But even though he was physically absent, he was always a presence in our family. I knew him from little blue aerograms, toys at holiday times, and chocolate bars. But to me he was always the heroic figure who was cutting the new path in America, and there was a deep purpose to his absence.

Compared to the sacrifices that my parents went through, my weekly separations from my children seem like little pikers in comparison. That is what helps me get through those periods of separation, and I guess I just want to recognize that there are common threads in all American families. We share the will to make sacrifices for a common good, for the future of the family, and we have to fight it in different ways. But if fathers are to be absent for short periods of time, or for long, let it be for purposeful activity, for truly overriding important factors in the family history and family life.

It is a pattern of sacrifice that we are called to at times, but if there is not this overriding incredible purpose, sense of history and sense of where the family must go, then I strongly encourage fathers to be with their children, to be with their families as much as possible, to not go through the travails of separation and sometimes the travails of reunion.

Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bipartisan resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, first I want to thank my friend from Oregon on the Committee on Education and the Workforce for his moving statement and his support of this resolution, and my fellow Hoosier, the gentlewoman from Indianapolis, Indiana (Ms. CARSON), for her personal statement and general statement in support of this resolution as well.

It is kind of awkward for us in Congress. One of the things that I hear probably most frequently at the personal level from other Members is the struggle of those of us who still have kids at home and the relationship to those kids and trying to do this duty. It is very easy to feel guilty in this job, unless you are a very kind of hard-skinned person.

Many of us tend to blame any problems we have with our kids on the fact that we are separated at times, when, in fact, we might still have those problems there. But it is very easy to worry

about those, and each of us try to deal with it in different ways, whether it is bringing our families here; whether it is trying to travel with them, I use my frequent flier miles to try to bring my kids with me to different hearings and different events; trying to call home each night; trying to e-mail, when I can remember my quick-dot-name, my handle; whether it is losing video games to your kids at home on a regular basis, I do not think I have ever won, unless I do not play fair.

It is something that they need that time, and it is something we struggle with. But it is a balance of setting an example. But then when you set the example, or when you try to inspire your kids, you also have an extra responsibility, as many of us do in this House, to reach out to our children, because if we lose our family and gain the world, we have lost everything. It is very easy to do that here, and if we are going to pass resolutions like this, we have to get our own house in order first and be an example, because the people who watch us in our home towns and the people who watch us around the country say, "Well, look at them. They will pass a resolution in Congress, but what are they doing with their own families?"

We have tried to address some of the policy questions that were raised too, whether it is in welfare reform and the accountability of child support, because at the very minimum, the kids deserve the financial support when a dad abandons.

We also tried to address child abuse. It is so hard for me to understand any father who could physically or sexually or verbally abuse their children. You talk about an anathema, how could a dad who loves their kids beat their kids? I just do not understand that, and it is something we are wrestling with in our society.

We praise all the moms who stood in for the dads that have abandoned their kids. We praise all the coaches, all the mentors, all the volunteers in this country who stepped up and stood in the gap when the dad abandons their families.

But the purpose of this resolution is to say that the men of America, the dads in America, need to stand up. If you are not home, get home, and get involved in your kids' life. If you are there, as much as possible, do not just go off into your basketball leagues and your bowling leagues and out to golf and go out with your friends. Spend time with your kids. You will regret it the rest of your life if you do not, and the country has to pay the consequence.

Mr. GOODLING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 522 offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS. House Resolution 522 expresses the importance of fathers in the rearing and development of their children. This resolution enjoys bipartisan support, including both the Republican and Democrat leadership and I am pleased to have the opportunity this afternoon to speak on behalf of it.

This resolution is timely. Yesterday, we celebrated Father's Day, a holiday that was started in 1910 in Spokane, Washington by Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. Ms. Dodd wanted to honor and thank her father for raising her and her five siblings after her mother died in childbirth.

It was recognized nationally in 1972 by President Nixon to honor the significant role fathers play in the upbringing of their children.

Although families across the country just recognized and honored fathers, we should be concerned about the fact that the United States is the world's leader in fatherless families. In fact, it is estimated that half of all United States children born today will spend at least half of their childhood in a family in which the father is absent.

Madam Speaker, every child has a father, but not every child has a dad and the consequences of not having father figures are disheartening. Studies have shown that children who are reared by a single parent are less likely to complete high school, earn less, and have lower employment stability than children reared in two-parent families.

In a study of juveniles in state reform institutions, it was found that 70 percent of such juveniles grew up in single or no parent homes. Additionally, it has been found that in high-crime, inner-city neighborhoods, well over 90 percent of children from safe, stable, two-parent homes do not become delinquent.

Madam Speaker, those examples serve to illustrate my strong belief that nothing can replace the father in a child's life. Fathers are role models and offer their children the most important ingredients that they should have throughout their childhood: love, guidance, discipline, encouragement, experience, trust and faith.

This resolution rightly recognizes that the creation of a better America depends in large part on the active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children.

H. Res. 522 urges each father in America to accept his full share of responsibility for the lives of his children, to be actively involved in rearing his children, and to encourage the academic, moral and spiritual development of his children.

I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership in authoring this resolution and urge my colleagues to adopt this measure.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, today I rise as a cosponsor and supporter of H. Res. 522. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS on this fine piece of legislation.

This past weekend, I was fortunate to be recognized for my work by the most important people in America. I was not recognized by some organization for my work as a Congressman, but by my children for my work as their father. My role as a father is the most important role in my life. This past weekend families all over the country celebrated Father's Day, and recognized their fathers for all the hard work and love and encouragement they provide.

Today, we here in Washington wish to say thank you to all of the fathers who work every day to instill good values in their children. We wish to say thank you to all of the fathers who make sure their children finish their homework before they go outside to play with their friends. We wish to say thank you for making

your children eat all of those green vegetables before they have those Oreo cookies. We wish to say thank you for having the patience to teach your children how to catch a baseball, ride a bicycle, say no to drugs, and drive a car responsibly. I know it is not always easy to be the guy who has to be in all of these places at once, but you all have such an important role to your children and our society.

Finally, I want to say thank you to my father. I remember growing up in Eufala, Oklahoma when my father worked three jobs to keep food on the table. He still had the time to instill in me the values that have made me the man I am today. Thank you Daddy.

Today I urge all my colleagues to support this piece legislation, and send thanks to all of our responsible fathers across this great nation.

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res 522.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING MONEY LAUNDERING

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 495) expressing the sense of the House regarding support for the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, and the timely and public identification of non-cooperative jurisdictions in the fight against international money laundering.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 495

Whereas the International Monetary Fund has estimated the amount of international money laundering to be at least \$600,000,000,000 annually representing 2 to 5 percent of the world's gross domestic product;

Whereas money laundering is a crucial adjunct to the underlying crimes that generate money, including drug trafficking, kidnapping, murder, international terrorism, and other forms of violent crime;

Whereas money laundering and foreign corruption facilitate each other, undermining the efforts of the United States to promote democratic institutions and economic development around the world;

Whereas, in today's open and global financial markets, which are characterized by a high mobility of funds and the rapid development of new payment technologies, the tools for laundering the proceeds of serious crimes have become more sophisticated and readily available;

Whereas recent years have witnessed a sharp increase in the number of jurisdictions offering financial services without appropriate controls or regulation and which are protected by strict banking secrecy legislation which facilitates the anonymous protection for illegal assets in certain countries or territories making them even more attractive for money laundering;